

Bracknell, Wokingham, Alden and Eton Berks News, Thursday, February 22nd, 1973  
**SPLIGHT ON SATURDAY'S BIG CUP BATTLE**

# MAGNIFICENT BRACKNELL HIT BY LATE GOAL

BRACKNELL TOWN 2, WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2

WHATEVER the ultimate result of this Berks and Bucks Senior Cup-tie, Bracknell will have had their moment of glory. The facts were that Bracknell held the famous Isthmians for ninety minutes to a 1-1 draw, and still shared the honours in extra time. But beyond bare facts there were many dramatic moments. A soft goal given away by Bracknell in the 58th minute which seemed to have cost them the match; an 89th minute equaliser, then an extra time penalty for Bracknell only for the Wanderers to equalise when the end was only seconds away. But altogether it was a magnificent display by the Newtowners, after so many disappointments this season.

Every player gave his all in the muddy conditions, but head and shoulders above their colleagues were the defenders Colin Hopkins and John Donachie, who time and time again frustrated Wycombe's international men until the visitors looked incapable of adding to their slender lead.

Beyond them goalkeeper John Alder gave a cracking display, saved only by the error in the 58th minute, when he came out for a free kick but missed the ball completely.

Striker Iain McPhee also had a towering game, but could often have played the ball away earlier than he did.

The much-maligned Gordon Wilkinson had his best game for ages, and set up the vital goal for John Squires before tripping in the vital penalty.

Up front Squires tried hard but never received the high crosses he deserves on.

Wycombe were a bit of a disappointment. Often they showed touches of class, but more often were made to look very ordinary by the hard working Newtowners.

On a cold day the biggest crowd seen at Larges Lane for a long time saw Bracknell start nervously.

Bobby Esterfield slipped and Wycombe's Gane fired in a hard shot which was blocked.

Wycombe gradually began to move forward, but suddenly it was Bracknell who came nearest to scoring when Alan Jeffries rapped in a hard shot which Mackell did well to push round the post.

Then a great pass by Gordon Wilkinson saw Squires race through, but Mackell just beat him to the ball to boot clear.

but there was not another forward on hand. Both in attack and defence, Hopkins was having an exceptional game.

Wycombe retaliated, and Angus was stopped as he came through at the foot of a free kick. The kick was cleared, but immediately Charlie Gaffney poignantly joined Williams out on the right.

From the free-kick Alder indicated that he had the ball covered, but instead he missed it leaving Hutchinson with an easy task to tap in an easy goal.

This was Gaffney's third foul. Though he was trying hard he was having a poor game, and Wycombe's manager Daily decided to replace him with Terry Bernard.

With five minutes remaining Bracknell's goalkeepers had become most disappointing. After eating up all that Wycombe could offer the game seemed to have been thrown away by this simple action.

Two minutes from time an about score by Bracknell saw Woodcock hit the side net, then with just one minute left Squires sent the ball skidding through the goal for the equaliser.

The Bracknell crowd went wild as the referee looked across to a linesman for confirmation that it was a legitimate goal.

In extra time, a great clearance by Woodcock kept Bernard racing up the right wing, the ball being transferred to Wilkinson who was unopposed in the penalty box. Wilkinson himself scored from the spot.

Wycombe fought back desperately to get on terms, but Bracknell remained superbly cool.

Wycombe's coach Markham just could not hit the target, and Bracknell secretary Denis Gifford and chairman Iain McGreggie, who had worked so hard to make the match a



Bracknell's Jimmy Woodcock neatly side-steps a stalling challenge from a Wycombe player during the first half of Saturday's exciting cup-tie at Larges Lane.



A great moment for Bracknell—the goal that made it 1-1 and earned them extra time. The Wycombe defence is all at sea (note the goalkeeper, left) as a shot from John Squires (out of picture) skims across the mud into the net.